



LA CONQUISTADORA

Our Country's Oldest Madonna

Shortly before Christmas in the year 1625, Fray Alonso Benavides, Franciscan Superior of the New Mexico Missions, brought a small wooden statue of Mary to the parish church of the Assumption in Santa Fe. Beautifully decorated with bright arabesques over gold leaf, it represented the Assumption of Our Lady. She was given the confraternity title of Our Lady of the Rosary, but her subjects more often called her "LA CONQUISTADORA," because she arrived in the days of their founding parents and grandparents, "The Conquistadores." This beautiful statue can be seen in La Conquistadora Chapel in the Saint Francis Cathedral in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

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